

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (previously presented) In a printing environment, a method for selectively processing a fax job using a multi-functional peripheral, the method comprising:

initiating a fax request at a computer device in communication with the multi-functional peripheral, wherein the fax request is a request to retrieve a fax from the multi-functional peripheral and wherein the computer device includes a print subsystem having a print spooler;

spooling a fax job corresponding to the fax request through the print subsystem of the computer device;

despooling the fax job to a printer port associated with the multi-functional peripheral; and

using the multi-functional peripheral to process the fax job.

2. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein initiating a fax request includes:

constructing the fax job; and

scheduling the fax job for despooling.

3. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein initiating a fax request is performed by at least one of (i) a user and (ii) an application.

4. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein spooling the fax job includes despooling the fax job to a print processor.

5. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein using the multi-functional peripheral includes connecting the multi-functional peripheral to a process on the computer device and sending the fax from the multi-functional peripheral to the computer device.

6. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the multi-functional peripheral retrieves the fax from storage of the multi-functional peripheral.

7. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the multi-functional peripheral pulls the fax from another location of which the multi-functional peripheral has been notified.

8. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the fax is a future fax and wherein the request to retrieve the fax is a request instructing the multi-functional peripheral where to deliver future faxes.

9. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 8, wherein using the multi-functional peripheral to process the fax job includes automatically routing the future fax to a destination indicated by the request to retrieve the fax.

10. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein using the multi-functional peripheral to process the fax job includes retrieving the fax from storage of the multifunctional peripheral, connecting with a receiving process at the computer device, and sending the fax to the receiving process at the computer device.

11. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 10, wherein using the multi-functional peripheral to process the fax job further comprises converting the fax into a format compatible with the receiving process at the computer device.

12. (previously presented) A system configured to selectively exchange information via facsimile, the system comprising:

a computer device that includes a print subsystem, wherein the print subsystem includes a print spooler;

a multi-functional peripheral coupled to the computer device, wherein the multi-functional peripheral is configured to dynamically process a fax job that is configured to be spooled through the print subsystem and despoiled to a printer port associated with the multi-functional peripheral, and wherein the fax job comprises a sequence of commands from a fax description language; and

a fax request generated at the computer device, wherein the fax request corresponds to the fax job, and wherein the fax request is a request to retrieve a fax from the multi-functional peripheral that has been received and stored by the multi-functional peripheral.

13. (original) A system as recited in claim 12, further comprising a network, wherein the network couples the computer device and the multi-functional peripheral.

14. (original) A system as recited in claim 13, further comprising a server coupled to the network, and wherein the computer device is a client computer device.

15. (original) A system as recited in claim 13, further comprising:

a second multi-functional peripheral coupled to the network; and

an interpreter coupled to and employed by the multi-functional peripherals that is configured to accept a page description language for printing and the fax description language for faxing.

16. (original) A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the interpreter is further configured to accept a scan description language for scanning.

17. (previously presented) A computer program product for implementing within a computer system a method for selectively processing a fax job using a multi-functional peripheral, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium for providing computer program code means utilized to implement the method, wherein the computer program code means is comprised of executable code for:

constructing a fax request at a computer device in communication with the multi-functional peripheral, the computer device including a print subsystem

having a print spooler, wherein the fax request is a request to retrieve a fax from the multi-functional peripheral;

spooling a fax job corresponding to the fax request through the print subsystem of the computer device, wherein the fax job is constructed as a sequence of commands from a fax description language;

despooling the fax job to a printer port associated with the multi-functional peripheral for processing of the fax job at the multi-functional peripheral.

18. (previously presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 17, wherein constructing the fax request includes:

constructing the fax job; and  
scheduling the fax job for despooling.

19. (previously presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 17, wherein spooling the fax job includes despooling the fax job to a print processor.

20. (previously presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 17, wherein the executable code further implements recognizing the fax job as a fax request.

21. (previously presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 17, wherein the request to retrieve a fax from the multi-functional peripheral is one of: (i) a request to retrieve a fax already received and stored by the multi-functional peripheral and (ii) a request instructing the multi-functional peripheral where to deliver future faxes.